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## Shark monitoring buoy installed

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On July 8, Harbormaster Don Beers installed a great white shark monitoring buoy near the first crossover at Duxbury Beach.

Designed to collect data from tagged sharks, the buoy is just one of several dozen shark receivers funded by donations through the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy that the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) have installed along the coast, explained Marine Fisheries Biologist John Chisholm of the DMF.



**Harbormaster Beers with the new monitoring buoy.**

Courtesy photo

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Although the buoy does not transmit live data, it collects data that can then be downloaded for research and analysis in hopes of gaining a better understanding of shark behavior patterns. "We tag a shark with a tag, then every 90 seconds it pings out a code," explained Chisholm. "When it swims by a receiver, the receiver hears that and logs the time and date of when the tag went by. So when we check the receiver we can see what shark was there and when." With enough data, researchers will hopefully be able to look at different variables (e.g. water temperature, tides and time of day) to see how they affected shark activity.

"We will look for patterns of behavior," Chisholm explained. "So we can advise the towns about what to do." "The only asterisks is that we can only detect sharks that have tags," he continued. "But there are a lot more sharks out there that don't have tags than do have tags."